

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transferring and applying a film of coating solution on each of two applicator rolls to each side of a web as it passes between nipping portions of said two applicator rolls which are formed when they are pressed against each other, said apparatus comprising:

an air-flotation type ~~mini~~ turn bar, provided to the downstream side of said nipping portions, for conveying said web while holding said web on a surface of one of said two applicator rolls, after said web passes between said nipping portions.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
a mechanism for moving said ~~mini~~ turn bar.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said ~~mini~~-turn-bar moving mechanism is constructed to adjust a distance that said web is held on said one applicator roll.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein said ~~mini~~-turn-bar moving mechanism is constructed to adjust a distance between said one applicator roll and said ~~mini~~ turn bar.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~, further comprising:

a paper roll, provided to the upstream side of said nipping portions, for conveying said web while holding said web on a surface of the other of said two applicator rolls, before said web passes between said nipping portions.

Claim 6 (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:
a mechanism for moving said paper roll.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) An air-flotation type **mini** turn bar for causing a web to travel so as to form an arcuately curved portion around said bar by floating said web with air, comprising:

a first air pocket arranged inside the arcuately curved portion of said web;

a second air pocket provided adjacent to said first air pocket and arranged near an entrance portion of said curved portion;

a third air pocket provided adjacent to said first air pocket and arranged near an exit portion of said curved portion;

a first air nozzle provided between said first air pocket and said second air pocket for squirting air toward said web; and

a second air nozzle provided between said first air pocket and said third air pocket for squirting air toward said web.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The air-flotation type **mini** turn bar as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

a third air nozzle for squirting higher-pressure air than atmospheric pressure into said first air pocket.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The air-flotation type **mini** turn bar as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

a plurality of first baffle walls provided in the direction of the width of said web within said first air pocket so that said first air pocket is segmented into a plurality of sections.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The air-flotation type **mini** turn bar as set forth in claim 9, further comprising:

a plurality of second baffle walls provided in the direction of the width of said web within said second air pocket so that said second air pocket is segmented into a plurality of sections; and

a plurality of third baffle walls provided in the direction of the width of said web within said third air pocket so that said third air pocket is segmented into a plurality of sections.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The air-flotation type ~~mini~~ turn bar as set forth in claim 7, wherein:

said second air nozzle comprises a second air-jet surface and a second slit-shaped air-jet groove, provided on a third surface extending in the direction of the width of said web;

said second air-jet surface has a great number of air-jet bores and is provided near said first air pocket; and

said second air-jet groove extends in the direction of the width of said web and is provided near said third air pocket.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The air-flotation type ~~mini~~ turn bar as set forth in claim 11, wherein:

said first air nozzle comprises a first air-jet surface and a first slit-shaped air-jet groove, provided on said third surface extending in the direction of the width of said web;

said first air-jet surface has a great number of air-jet bores and is provided near said first air pocket; and

said first air-jet groove extends in the direction of the width of said web and is provided near said second air pocket.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The air-flotation type ~~mini~~ turn bar as set forth in claim 7 ~~any one of claims 7 through 12~~, wherein a shape from said second air pocket to said third air pocket is formed symmetrically with respect to a center line of said first air pocket.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transferring and applying a film of coating solution on each of two applicator rolls to each side of a web as it passes between nipping

portions of said two applicator rolls which are formed when they are pressed against each other, said apparatus comprising:

the air-flotation type ~~mini~~ turn bar as set forth in claim 7 ~~any one of claims 7 through 13~~, provided to the downstream side of said nipping portions for conveying said web while holding said web on a surface of one of said two applicator rolls after said web passes between said nipping portions, by air squirted from said bar.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A method of transferring and applying a film of coating solution for coated paper production on each of two applicator rolls to each side of a web as it passes between nipping portions of said two applicator rolls which are formed when they are pressed against each other, said method comprising the step of:

conveying said web while holding said web on a surface of one of said two applicator rolls after said web passes between said nipping portions, by an air-flotation type ~~mini~~ turn bar.